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HARVARD UNIVERSITY

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A NEW SOBRALIA FROM THE REPUBLIC OF HONDURAS

BY
OAKES AMES

AMONG the described species of Sobralia, *S. Edwardsii* is most closely allied to *S. crocea* Reichb.f., a native of Peru, differing from it in the color of the flowers and in the structure of the labellum. After pollination the ovary elongates excessively, bearing at its summit the swollen column and the withered vestiges of the tenuous perianth. This peculiarity, shared with *S. crocea*, gives the plant a remarkable and characteristic aspect. As the second flower expands, the capsule underneath the first flower, if pollination has been effected, may exceed 6 cm. in length. This condition is represented in the accompanying plate.

Sobralia Edwardsii *Ames, sp. nov.* Herba epiphytica, trifoliata, foliis elliptico-lanceolatis, tridentatis. Flores duo, succedanei. Sepala oblongo-lanceolata, valde apiculata, similia. Petala plus minusve membranacea, oblonga, subacuta, apiculata. Labellum elliptico-oblongum, margine inaequaliter plicatum et undulatum, basi breviter bicallosum. Discus conspicue carinatus, carinis septem valde sinuatis ornatus. Columna gracilis, leviter alata, apice lobis falcatis ornata.

Plant 26–31 cm. tall, slender, trifoliate about 2 dm. above the base, with a conduplicate finely asperate sheath

subtending each flower; sheaths tridentate at the tip, about 2 cm. long. Stems slender, about 3 mm. in diameter, partly concealed by elongated tubular sheaths. Sheaths 2–6.2 cm. long, nervose when dry, finely asperate, closely appressed, obtuse or subacute, brown-annulate at the base. Leaves 6–8 cm. apart, 7-nerved; lamina 4–14.5 cm. long, 1–3.2 cm. wide, elliptic-lanceolate, tridentate at the tip, continued below into elongated finely asperate closely appressed tubular sheaths. Inflorescence, with its subtending conduplicate bracts, arising in the axil of the uppermost leaf, 2-flowered, with the flowers opening in succession. As the second flower expands the first one is entirely withered, the remains of the perianth and column surmounting the elongate capsule. Lateral sepals 3.7 cm. long, about 8 mm. wide, pale green, narrowly lanceolate, conspicuously apiculate, lightly carinate on the outer surface along the median nerve. Dorsal sepal pale green, equal to the laterals and similar. Petals pure white, about 3.5 cm. long, 6 mm. wide, oblong, subacute, apiculate. Labellum 3 cm. long, 1.5 cm. wide, elliptic-oblong, obtuse, margin above the middle conspicuously folded or plaited in small regular undulations, unequally and inconspicuously crenulate, but not at all fringed or deeply dentate, shortly bicallose at the base, each callus bifurcate or trifurcate, with one of the divisions extending along the disc almost to the apex of the labellum and becoming conspicuously raised into a sinuate keel above the middle, in addition five of the nerves become similarly carinate, and several others become shortly carinate or bear conspicuous flattened protuberances near the margin on the distal portion of the disc. Column about 1.6 cm. long, lightly winged on the sides, with two falcate erect retrorse terminal lobes or teeth. Capsule slender, elongated, up to 9 cm. long when mature.


SOBRALIA Edwardsii Ames
1
2
3
4

Republic of Honduras, Department of Cortez, El Jaral, Lake Yojoa. Epiphyte in dense forest at 2,000 feet altitude. Sepals pale green, almost white. Petals pure white. Lip white with a light yellow field marked with brown stripes, crinkled like crêpe. October 27, 1932. *J. B. Edwards 299.* (Type in Herb. Ames No. 39404.)

Illustration: Plant drawn natural size. 1, labellum. 2, petal. 3, anther. 4, column.

A NEW BLETIA FROM MEXICO

BY

OAKES AMES AND CHARLES SCHWEINFURTH

AMONG several orchids submitted by the New York Botanical Garden for determination, the following species from the Mexican state of Chiapas appears to be undescribed. Its very slender habit serves to distinguish it from all the other members of the genus. Moreover, the small flowers with shallow sinuses between the lobes of the lip differentiate it from the nearest allies, *Bletia Pottsii* S. Wats. and *B. tuberosa* (L.) Ames.

Bletia tenuifolia *Ames & Schweinfurth, sp. nov.* Herba gracilis. Cormus subglobosus. Folia quattuor vel plura, angustissime linearia. Scapus folia paulo superans, saepissime subpaniculatus. Flores laxi. Sepalum dorsale lanceolato-ellipticum, acutum. Sepala lateralia oblique elliptico-lanceolata, acuta. Petala oblique elliptica vel ovalia. Labellum in circuitu ovatum, prope apicem trilobatum; lobi laterales semiovati; lobus medius suborbicularis; discus quinquecarinatus. Columna generis.

Roots fibrous, coarse, flexuous, glabrous, longitudinally sulcate when dry. Rhizome apparently creeping. Corm subglobose, about 1.2 cm. long, rugose, shining, covered with the fibrous remains of sheaths. Leaves four to five in a cluster, very narrowly linear, articulated to convolute sheaths which in turn are loosely enveloped by several imbricating nervose scarious leaf-bearing sheaths; blades 15–33.5 cm. long, up to 3 mm. wide, complicate-acuminate, 3-nerved, erect-spreading. Scape up to 46 cm. high, somewhat surpassing the leaves, slender, concealed at base by three short imbricating nervose sheaths and above by about three remote appressed tubular sheaths. Rachis commonly subpaniculate with a single basal branch, up to 15 cm. long (the apical flowers in our

specimens consisting of immature crowded buds). Floral bracts lanceolate, long-acuminate, scarious, the lowermost about 5.5 mm. long. Raceme loose, flowers 1 cm. or more distant. Dorsal sepal lanceolate-elliptic, 1 cm. long, 4 mm. wide, acute, 5-nerved. Lateral sepals asymmetrically elliptic-lanceolate, about 9 mm. long, 3.8 mm. wide, acute, 5-nerved. Petals asymmetrically elliptic, about 9 mm. long, 4.5 mm. wide, narrowed to an obtuse or subacute apex, the margins of the upper half irregular, 3-nerved with the side nerves branching. Lip ovate in outline, 3-lobed near the apex, articulated to the short column-foot, 8 mm. long, 6.1 mm. wide, broadly cuneate at base; lateral lobes semiovate, 6.2 mm. long, lobulate at their rounded apex; middle lobe much smaller, suborbicular-quadrate, 2.1 mm. long and wide, shallowly retuse and apiculate, the margins strongly undulate and lobulate; disc traversed by five parallel keels which are highest in the middle of the lip and become undulate near their apex; the three middle keels extend about to the middle of the mid-lobe, the lateral keels stop below the base of the mid-lobe. Column arcuate, 7.5 mm. long (measuring the posterior portion); clinandrium 3-lobed. Anther semiglobose, 2-celled, each cell 4-chambered.



Mexico, Chiapas, Rio Leche. March 22, 1933. *C. D. Mell 2084.* (Type in Herb. N.Y. Bot. Gard.)

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ERRATA

I:2, line 1
for **Marcarthurii** read **Macarthurii**

I:10, line 22
for **Sorghum vulgare** *L.* read **Sorghum vulgare** *Pers.*

I:11, line 15
for **Tipuana tipu** (*Benth.*) *Hubbard & Rehder comb. nov.* read **Tipuana tipu** (*Benth.*) *Lillo apud Stuntz* in Invent. Seeds & Pls. Introd. no. 31 (1914) 88 (Bur. Pl. Indust.)

VIII:1, line 3
for *Epidendrum viejii* read *Epidendrum vieji.*

VIII:5, line 4
for Izabel read Izabal

VIII:5, lines 11 and 12
for Guatemalen read Guatemalan

IX:2, line 25
for *P. ruscifolia* (Sw.) R.Br. read *P. ruscifolia* (Jacq.) R.Br.

IX:8, line 16
for STELIS NUBIA *Ames* read STELIS NUBIS *Ames*

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